

NASA News

National Aeronautics and
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Washington, D.C. 20546
AC 202 755-8370

Mary Fitzpatrick
Headquarters, Washington, D.C.
(Phone: 202/755-8370)

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NASA SCHEDULES 16 LAUNCHES IN 1979

Eleven of the 16 launches on NASA's schedule for 1979 are reimbursables, satellites launched by NASA for other agencies or corporations.

The space agency's activities in 1979 will include the first launch and orbital flight of the crew-carrying Space Shuttle; Jupiter and Saturn encounters by two Voyager spacecraft; and a flyby of the rings of Saturn by the Pioneer 11 spacecraft.

Three launch sites will be used by NASA: Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.; and Wallops Island, Va.

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As was the case in 1978, most of the 1979 launches will emphasize the use of space for the direct benefit of people on Earth -- communications and environmental and meteorological information. During 1978, the agency logged 20 launches -- 11 of them reimbursables for paying customers.

The paying customers for 1979 launches include the Department of Defense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The United Kingdom, Western Union Corp., Comsat Corp. and RCA.

The first orbital flight of the Space Shuttle, NASA's reusable space transportation vehicle, is scheduled for Sept. 28, 1979. Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen have been named as crew members on the first flight which will be launched from Kennedy Space Center, Fla., and land about 53 hours later at the NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, Calif.

On March 5, 1979, the Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched from Earth on Sept. 5, 1977, is scheduled to make its closest approach to the planet Jupiter and travel on to make a close approach to the planet Saturn on Nov. 12, 1980.

Its sister spacecraft, Voyager 2, which was launched Aug. 20, 1977, makes its closest approach to Jupiter on July 9, 1979, and to Saturn on Aug. 27, 1981.

The Pioneer 11 spacecraft, launched April 6, 1973, on its primary mission to fly by Jupiter, is scheduled to make its closest approach to the rings of Saturn on Sept. 1, 1979.

The 1979 schedule begins with two launches on Jan. 25. Spacecraft Charging at High Altitudes (SCATHA) will be launched aboard a Delta from Cape Canaveral for the Department of Defense. That same day, a NASA applications satellite, Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment (SAGE-A) will be sent aloft on a Scout from Wallops Island, Va.

Two more launches are earmarked for April: NOAA-A, a weather satellite to be launched for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on an Atlas-F and Navy-20 for the Department of Defense. Both launches will be at Vandenberg.

FLTSATCOM-B, a Navy/Air Force communications satellite is on the calendar for May, aboard an Atlas Centaur from Cape Canaveral.

UK-6, a scientific satellite will be launched for the United Kingdom on a Scout launch vehicle from Wallops in June.

Westar-C, a communications satellite, will be launched from Cape Canaveral on a Delta in July and another communications satellite, Intelsat V-A, will be launched in August from Cape Canaveral on an Atlas Centaur for Comsat Corp.

One of NASA's scientific satellites, High Energy Astronomy Observatory-C (HEAO-C), will be launched in September on an Atlas Centaur from Cape Canaveral. Another NASA satellite, this one in the applications area, Magsat-A, a magnetic field satellite, is also scheduled for September from Vandenberg on a Scout.

The Solar Maximum Mission (SMM-A), a NASA scientific mission, is scheduled for October on a Delta from Cape Canaveral and Navy 21, on a Scout, from Vandenberg.

In November, another communications satellite, Intelsat V-B, will be launched for Comsat Corp., on an Atlas Centaur from Cape Canaveral.

The year will close out with two launches in December: a weather satellite, NOAA-B, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on an Atlas-F from Vandenberg; and RCA-C, a domestic communications satellite for RCA on a Delta from Cape Canaveral.

(END OF GENERAL RELEASE: TABLE FOLLOWS.)

1979 EXPENDABLE VEHICLES LAUNCH SCHEDULE

Launch Date	Mission Designation	Launch Vehicle	Launch Site*	Mission Description
January 25	SCATHA	Delta	ETR	DOD (R&D) Space Charging at High Altitudes -- <u>reimbursable</u>
January 25	SAGE-A	Scout	WFC	NASA (applications) Stratospheric Aerosol and Gas Experiment
April	NOAA-A	Atlas-F	WTR	NOAA (weather) -- <u>reimbursable</u>
April	Navy-20 C/U	Scout	WTR	DOD Transit -- <u>reimbursable</u>
May	FLTSATCOM-B	Atlas Centaur	ETR	DOD (Navy/Air Force communications) -- <u>reimbursable</u>
June	UK-6	Scout	WFC	UK (scientific) -- <u>reimbursable</u>
July	Westar-C C/U	Delta	ETR	Western Union (communications) -- <u>reimbursable</u>
August	Intelsat V-A	Atlas Centaur	ETR	Intelsat (communications) -- <u>reimbursable</u>
September	HEAO-C	Atlas Centaur	ETR	NASA (scientific) High Energy Astronomy Observatory
September	Magsat-A	Scout	WTR	NASA (applications) Magnetic Field Satellite
October	SMM-A	Delta	ETR	NASA (scientific) Solar Maximum Mission
October	Navy-21	Scout	WTR	DOD Transit (NOVA I) -- <u>reimbursable</u>

Launch Date	Mission Designation	Launch Vehicle	Launch Site*	Mission Description
November	Intelsat V-B	Atlas Centaur	ETR	Intelsat (communications) -- reimbursable
December	NOAA-B	Atlas-F	WTR	NOAA (weather) -- reimbursable
December	RCA-C	Delta	ETR	RCA (communications) -- reimbursable

* ETR- Eastern Test Range, Cape Canaveral, Fla.
 WFC- Wallops Flight Center, Wallops Island, Va.
 WTR- Western Test Range, Vandenberg AFB, Calif.